

By: Driver

H.B. No. 4456

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the definition of a switchblade knife for purposes of the offense of prohibited weapons.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 46.01(11), Penal Code, is amended to read as follows:

(11) "Switchblade knife" means any knife that has a blade that folds, closes, or retracts into the handle or sheath and that

~~(A)~~ opens automatically by pressure applied to a button or other device located on the handle or

~~(B)~~ opens or releases a blade from the handle or sheath by the force of gravity or by the application of centrifugal force. The term does not include a knife that has a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure and that requires exertion applied to the blade or blade mechanism by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure and open the knife.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of

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1 this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that
2 date.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.